

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FDOH LEE RECOGNIZES NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY



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Lee County - Monday, February 7, 2022, marks National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD), an annual observance meant to increase HIV education, testing, treatment, and involvement among Black communities nationwide.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Black persons remain disproportionately affected by HIV. In 2020, there were 3,504 new HIV diagnoses among Floridians. Of the 3,504 Floridians who received an HIV diagnosis, 40 percent were Black. Black Floridians with HIV are less likely than others to be retained in HIV care. Regular HIV care includes antiretroviral therapy (ART), which decreases HIV in the body. This decrease, called viral suppression, leads to better health outcomes. Black Floridians with HIV are also less likely to achieve viral suppression and therefore miss out on important health and prevention benefits.

In recognition of NBHAAD, the Florida Department of Health in Lee County (DOH-Lee) is joining Utopia Unisex Salon, Lee Health, McGregor Clinic, and community volunteers to emphasize the importance of getting tested and knowing your HIV status.

Event Date: Saturday, February 5th, 2022

Location: Utopia Unisex Salon

3069 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

Fort Myers, FL 33916

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Event Activities:

- FREE HIV testing.
- Educational information.
- Free blood pressure screening.
- Help connecting clients with a primary care doctor.
- Scheduling doctor appointments.

Knowing your HIV status protects you and your community. Visit [KnowYourHIVStatus.com](https://www.flhealth.gov/your-hiv-status) to learn more. You can also call the Florida HIV/AIDS Hotline at 1-800-FLA-AIDS, 1-800-545-SIDA (en Español), or 1-800-AIDS-101 (in Creole) for more information.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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